

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Dennis Himmelberger, on February 14, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Dennis Himmelberger, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Duane Ankney, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Hal Jacobson, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)  
Rep. Gary Branae (D)  
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)  
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)  
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)  
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)  
Rep. William J. Jones (R)  
Rep. Bruce Malcolm (R)  
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)  
Rep. Alan Olson (R)  
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)  
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)  
Rep. Franke Wilmer (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Scott Sales

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Dee Barfknecht, Committee Secretary  
Sheri Heffelfinger, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: HB 578, HB 604, HB 619, HB 647  
Executive Action: HB 647, HB 97, HB 487

**HEARING ON HB 619**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:03:24 Rep. John Sinrud (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 619, Revise exempt economic development positions.

[EXHIBIT\(sth33a01\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:06:19 Rep. Sinrud

---

**HEARING ON HB 578**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:07:10 Rep. John Musgrove (D), HD 34, opened the hearing on HB 578, Revise bonding authority and volume cap.

[EXHIBIT\(sth33a02\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:11:39 David Ewer, Budget Director, Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(sth33a03\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:23:17 Jim Stipich, Executive Director, Student Assistance Foundation

[EXHIBIT\(sth33a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(sth33a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(sth33a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(sth33a07\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(sth33a08\)](#)

00:41:29 James Bell, Chairman of the Board, Student Assistance Foundation

00:48:03 Heather O'Loughlin, Board Member, Student Assistance Foundation, University of Montana Student

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:51:16 Rep. Barrett  
00:51:29 Ms. O'Loughlin  
00:52:05 Rep. Barrett  
00:52:20 Ms. O'Loughlin  
00:53:00 Rep. Barrett  
00:53:50 Mr. Stipich  
00:54:07 Rep. Barrett  
00:54:17 Mr. Stipich  
00:54:32 Rep. Jacobson  
00:55:08 Mr. Ewer  
00:55:13 Mr. Jacobson  
00:56:52 Mr. Stipich  
00:56:56 Mr. Jacobson  
00:57:36 Mr. Stipich  
00:58:40 Rep. Jacobson  
00:59:49 Rep. Malcolm  
01:00:31 Mr. Stipich  
01:01:25 Rep. Dickenson  
01:02:38 Mr. Stipich  
01:03:06 Rep. Dickenson  
01:03:12 Mr. Stipich  
01:03:27 Rep. Dickenson  
01:03:40 Ms. O'Loughlin  
01:04:36 Rep. Barrett  
01:05:13 Mr. Stipich  
01:06:08 Rep. Barrett  
01:06:17 Mr. Stipich  
01:06:31 Rep. Wilmer  
01:07:08 Mr. Stipich  
01:07:51 Rep. Wilmer  
01:08:10 Mr. Stipich  
01:08:39 Rep. Wilmer  
01:09:09 Mr. Stipich  
01:10:35 Rep. Ingraham  
01:11:17 Rep. Musgrove

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:12:53 Rep. Musgrove

**HEARING ON HB 647**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:17:17 Rep. Kevin Furey (D), HD 91, opened the hearing on HB 647, Provide workplace conflict resolution as job benefit.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:19:15 Rep. Furey

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 647**

01:20:08 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ankney moved that **HB 647 BE TABLED**  
The motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 18-0.  
Rep. Sales voted by proxy.

---

**HEARING ON HB 604**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:20:55 Rep. Mike Jopek (D), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 604, Revise ethics laws.

**EXHIBIT**(sth33a09)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:26:48 Eric Stern, Governor's Office

01:31:32 Rep. McAlpin

01:32:59 Elizabeth Andrews, Montana Common Cause

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:34:04 Ronna Alexander, Montana Society of Association Executives

**Informational Testimony:**

01:40:10 Dennis Unsworth, Commissioner of Political Practices

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:44:02 Rep. Jones  
01:44:48 Mr. Unsworth  
01:45:08 Rep. Jones  
01:45:17 Mr. Unsworth  
01:46:30 Rep. Jones  
01:46:57 Mr. Unsworth  
01:47:09 Rep. Dickenson  
01:47:46 Rep. McAlpin  
01:48:18 Rep. Dickenson  
01:48:57 Sheri Heffelfinger  
01:51:02 Rep. Ingraham  
01:52:17 Rep. Jopek  
01:53:20 Rep. Wilmer  
01:53:45 Mr. Stern  
01:55:23 Rep. Wilmer  
01:56:00 Ms. Andrews  
01:56:31 Chairman Himmelberger  
01:57:03 Mr. Unsworth  
01:57:21 Chairman Himmelberger  
01:57:48 Mr. Unsworth

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:57:54 Rep. Jopek  
  
02:02:04 Break  
02:17:47 Reconvene

---

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 97**

02:17:56 **Motion:** Rep. Barrett moved that **HB 97 DO PASS.**

02:18:10 **Motion:** Rep. Barrett moved that **HB 97 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT**(sth33a10)

**Discussion:**

02:18:16 Rep. Barrett  
02:19:45 Ms. Heffelfinger

02:21:32 **Vote:** Motion that **HB 97 BE AMENDED** carried by voice vote, 18-0. Rep. Sales and Caferro voted by proxy.

02:21:56 **Motion:** Rep. Barrett moved that **HB 97 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

02:22:11 Rep. McNutt  
02:22:51 Rep. Phillips  
02:23:08 Rep. Barrett  
02:23:49 Rep. Wilmer  
02:24:17 Rep. Ingraham  
02:24:33 Rep. Barrett

02:25:51 **Vote:** Motion that **HB 97 DO PASS AS AMENDED** carried by voice vote 18-0. Rep. Sales and Caferro voted by proxy.

---

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 487**

02:26:52 **Motion:** Rep. Malcolm moved that **HB 487 DO PASS.**

02:27:20 **Motion:** Rep. Malcolm moved that **HB 487 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT**(sth33a11)

**Discussion:**

02:27:34 Rep. Malcolm  
02:29:16 Ms. Heffelfinger  
02:31:17 Rep. Dickenson  
02:31:43 Ms. Heffelfinger  
02:32:12 Rep. Ankney  
02:32:29 Rep. Malcolm  
02:32:32 Rep. McNutt

02:32:54 **Vote:** Motion that **HB 487 BE AMENDED** carried by voice vote, 18-0. Rep. Sales, Wilmer and Caferro voted by proxy.

02:33:41 **Motion:** Rep. Malcolm moved that **HB 487 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

02:33:55 Rep. Ingraham  
02:34:41 Rep. Malcolm

02:34:55 Rep. Ankney  
02:35:13 Rep. Dickenson  
02:35:22 Rep. Malcolm  
02:35:42 Rep. Dickenson  
02:35:58 Chairman Himmelberger  
02:36:10 Rep. Ingraham

02:36:50 **Vote:** Motion that **HB 487 DO PASS AS AMENDED** carried by voice vote 18-0. Rep. Sales and Caferro voted by proxy.

**Additional Exhibits:**

Document pertaining to HB 578, Hearing 02/14/07

**EXHIBIT**(sth33a12)

**ADJOURNMENT**

02:37:43 Adjournment

---

REP. DENNIS HIMMELBERGER, Chairman

---

DEE BARFKNECHT, Secretary

DH/db

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([sth33aad.pdf](#))**